

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

Form Bi-689

FIELD DIARY

Mr. *Vernon Bailey*  
*Pennsylvania, Beavers*  
(Official title.)  
Period, *April 7, 1926* to

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If you hasten  
Time, like a golden butterfly  
will flee before you

If you tarry  
Time, slowly, like a gentle ox  
will follow you

Juan Ramon Jimenez  
translated from the Spanish

1924

April 7, Left Washington at  
7:25 PM for Pittsburg to give  
a talk on mammals at Society  
and then join W. E. Chittenden for  
a trip to Potter Co. to photograph  
beavers.

April 8. Arrived at Pittsburg 7:40  
AM and at Sewickley at 12 AM.  
Raining so we could not go up  
Big Beaver Creek so we explored  
caves and coal shafts for bats  
and set traps for live animals.  
Rained all day.

Savannah Region

Oes a few

Opussum

Sylvilagus <sup>not far away</sup> weaveri <sup>valerius - Kanishko</sup> com.

Sciurus ~~per~~ <sup>exiguus</sup> s. n. rufiventris

" *carolinensis leucotis*

" *leucotis*

" *hudsonicus loquax* &

*Tamias striatus fisheri*

*Marmota monax*

✓ *Sciuropterus volans*

*Peromyscus leucopus*

*Microtus pennsylvanicus*

" *pictorum secaloides*

*Neotoma pennsylvanica*

*Lepus sylvaticus*

~~*Antelope*~~ *gorgopis*

*Lepus hudsonicus*

*Vulpes*

*Urocyon*

*Procyon*

*Mephitis ~~pudica~~ nigra*

*Lutreola*

April 9 - Set more traps up the  
hills just across road from  
Sewickley in prairie, 2 P.M.  
Went to traps and then as far as  
we could with Auto, left it and walked  
7 miles up Big Hawk Creek to  
a farm house about 18 miles  
S.W. of Sewickley in southern  
part of Beaver Co., 5 miles from West Va.  
Set traps, explored cliffs, saw  
birds and got all the mammal  
notes we could.

*Nasula nasuta*  
~~*alleganensis*~~

*Lutra canadensis*

*Ursus americanus*

*Desmodus aquaticus machimus*

*Condylura cristata*

*Parascalops brevirostris*

*Sorex* <sup>*fulvus* *fuscus*</sup> *cinereus cinereus* Both from Beaver & other  
localities

*Microsorex*

*Blarina brevicauda*

~~*perva?*~~

Bats - 10 or 12 species.

*Synaptomys cooperi storeri*

See Rhoads, Beaver Spruce, & other

localities both sides of Pittsburgh

*Eutamias fuscus* - Beaver Run

*Pipistrellus subflavus* "

*Myotis borealis* "

*Myotis lucifugus* "

*Myotis cinereus* Runover

*Myotis subulatus* Carrot

April 12. Sewickley

Talked about the mammals of the vicinity to the Sewickley Audubon Soc. in evening at the Club house. Had a very appreciative audience of about 100 members & friends & children and the children were especially interested in the mice in cages which saw as their wheels while I talked.

April 11. Sunday.

Went with Mr. Christy to see the Fox squirrels which are common and tame in some of the yards of Sewickley. Also saw Red squirrels and chipmunks out in the woods and parks. Heard a Louisiana waterthrush singing in the park.

April 12 Went up to Pittsburg and  
out to Norman McClinton's at  
Shady Side and helped him  
fix up photographing apparatus for  
taking moving pictures of the mine.  
Worked until 11 PM and got a  
very good set of pictures of  
Machines, Pumpers & Etceteras.

April 13. Packed up and got  
ready for next trip to the  
braves of Potter Co.

Apr 14. Took early train to Williamsport where we met Mr. Slaughterback and drove to Condersport, 100 miles north. Interesting country and good roads most of way but got stuck in mud a couple of times and got in Cole. Had to stay all night at Condersport where we found VanCleave and Besseyer who will go over to Conrood with us in morning.

A warm day but began to snow in evening.

Slaughterback told me of getting three bobcats last winter that weighed 30, 32 & 35 lbs.

Also of ~~the~~ very young black bear found in a den under old log and killed the last week in February.

April 15 - a little snow on  
ground in morning, clear & cold,  
down near zero & ground frozen  
hard. Air full of frost and a very  
wintry feeling.  $15^{\circ}$  above zero at  
9 AM when we started for Hull.  
Van Cleve, the local trapper and  
Berreyer the local game warden  
came with us <sup>in a car</sup> for the 20 mile  
drive over the high ridges and down  
to Hull, or Conrard, where the beavers  
are. Found the roads frozen  
but rough and later when it  
began to thaw they were slippery  
on the mud. On the cold slopes  
there was still old snow and  
in the roads old ice, but with  
chains we came along very nicely.  
Reached Hull just before noon.

In afternoon set two beaver  
traps and 9 live traps for small  
game and 10 mouse traps.

May 1, 1922

The beaver are more numerous here than last year, although about 16 have been caught & moved to other streams. Three were killed one by automobile on road, and two caught in snare & muskrat traps. There are now 16 main dams, not counting the small & secondary, and 22 occupied houses. Small colonies or pairs have crossed over the heads of streams, in spring high water and established colonies on the heads of Kettle Creek, Pine Creek and the Alleghany River, all on different drainage systems.

Apart from all these losses in the Cinnahocking drainage it seems evident from the houses, dams, and other signs that there are at least 75 beavers here now. This would fully double the number here last year including the increase of those moved last summer.



The Wardens + Mr. Van Cleave and  
Slawterback and the hotel men who live  
here and know the beaver personally  
all agree that this is a conservative  
estimate of the numbers of beavers here  
now.

One old large female has raised  
her family of young for two years  
past at the splashdown, just above  
Hull and several people have seen the  
5 young last summer and the summer before.  
The five yearlings were caught last  
summer in live traps and moved  
to another creek. Last summer Mr.  
Van Cleave says he saw the 5 yearlings  
when he heard the young crying  
in the house, and later saw the  
5 young out in evening.

The beavers have wintered along  
the creek above the hotel where there  
are no aspens and have fed  
on blue pines, birch, river birch,  
willow, alders and small stuff.

They have cut a few apple trees  
many wild cherry, and several  
small elms that have been set out.  
Still there are lots of aspens  
up on the slopes that could  
be hauled down for fuel for the beavers.

The season is much later than  
last year at this date. There are  
no flowers, not even maple ~~red~~ <sup>red</sup> ~~leaves~~ <sup>leaves</sup>,  
and little show of green grass on  
the meadows. There is no snow  
in the valley but solid ice under  
the beaver in the woods in shady  
places.

April 19. - Caught nothing  
in the beaver traps so worked  
them, one to the splash dam  
above the lot and the other two miles  
up Stovelide Run where there is  
a large colony of beavers and  
they have done an enormous amount

of building and cutting. They have  
16 or 17 dams with good deep pools  
and a dozen secondary dams.

There are several old ditched boxes  
and two or three good sized boxes  
and a great many bank burrows.  
They have practically cleared  
several acres of open forest land and  
are working up the stream and abating  
the heaviest cuttings below.

There are no aspens but they  
are living on <sup>yellow</sup> birch, beech,  
hornbeam, maple, soft sugar,  
cherry, ironwood, and some hemlock.  
Several small hemlocks had been  
pulled but not cut down, and  
several large sugar maples had  
been pulled and not cut.

Cords of good solid wood with  
the bark eaten off are built into  
the dams.

Ernest E. Hunsinger, Conrad, Pa.

Ernest says they killed 2 female black bears near here last Dec. 15, each containing 2 small cubs the size of mice. Several bears have been found with 4 cubs.

He says these bears that he has known about had hibernated in shallow places scooped out in the ground and lined with leaves.

but others have been found under logs or stumps or brush.

Picked up a porcupine skull - Ernest says he has shot 25 this winter in the game refuge.

Ernest says he kept 2 crows over winter. They were big and fat and stayed in their boxes without eating from Oct. 1 to about the middle of Feb.

After setting the traps we wintered until 5 P.M. when one old big beaver came out and went down stream through two ponds. Then we caught it in a small pond and John Bessner caught it by the tail but fell down and it got away.

On the way home we saw another cross the road and ran it into the creek where Van Clee caught it by the tail and we brought it home in a box. It was very dark but not very large, about 30 lbs.

Illinois Road D.  
Pennsylvania  
Hunting season of 1925.

Elk 6

Deer 7287 - 2 point & better

Bear 470 - cubs protected

Turkeys 3241

Grouse

Robbets

Squirrels

April 17

Found a big old beaver in trap at upper end of pond on Rocklick Creek, about 2 miles north of Conrad, close to where the first beaver were put in here in 1920.

The stock was brought from Algonquin Park, Canada, and is of good dark brown fur.

The old beaver had evidently been in the trap all night sitting to her eyes in ice water but seemed warm and comfortable after she had been out in the sunshine and cold wind for 15 minutes being photographed she was shivering with the cold.

Placed in gunnysack and carried about 2 miles on back of John Buzzer, she was taken to open meadow and photographed both still

Pemissin

and moving pictures. Then  
put in small parcel she was  
photographed some more while  
swimming and eating and carrying  
branches in her hands.

Then placed in box of straw  
with food and water for the night.

Much cutting of hardwood  
timber at these dams and  
ponds because there is no  
other timber.

April 18 - Started home early in  
morning on frozen ground but  
found a car frozen into the mud  
and blocking the road a few miles  
out. Got into Lodebroom  
about 1 AM and M<sup>rs</sup> McIntosh  
left us for Pittsburg.

Took the old beaver along in  
gunny sack and kept her on  
the back seat cushion beside me all

the way, but it warmed up and she was very hot and uncomfortable and restless. At Leoben she took one bite out of an apple and dropped dead in the evening. Found her very fat and full of a large foetus ready for birth in a week or ten days. Made specimens of old beaver, and two of the foetuses, gave the other two to Glauert for the Conservation Commission and two to the warden at Mifflinburg.

The embryos had shaken down out of place and four were under the intestines against the wall of the abdomen with small cords twisted many times around. Two were still in the proper place above the intestines. Death may have been from heat or from strangulation of circulation in embryos.

April 17 Visited ranger  
station 15 miles west of  
Mifflinburg and picked out place  
for travel house and pool on  
small creek, then went up to  
first station on top of high  
sandstone plateau in Union  
Co., overlooking many valleys  
and mountain ridges.

No flowers and little trees  
grew.

Caught a small woodchuck &  
brought it home in a quonset.

Drove back to Mifflinburg and  
Harrisburg and reached  
Washington at 8:50 P.M.



Wilton to Harrisburg \$ 2.38

April 25. Left Washington  
at 12:56 PM for Harrisburg  
and arrived at 4:20 PM.  
Met Slautterback at the station  
who drove to Mifflinburg that  
night. Had supper with the  
stranger, Miss Reader and  
went to the Jump Inn for the  
night.

April 29. Drove 15 miles west to  
a little brook near Laurelton.  
where we built a beaver fence  
around a pond and built a 4 foot  
square house of boards in side.  
The house has a door with pad lock  
and a beaver hole in the floor  
at the water level, with trap  
doors, so we can shut the  
beaver in and enter the house  
at any time. It took three of us  
half a day to do the whole job.

Returned to Washington at  
9 P.M.

April 27. Went to New York to  
Atlantic Mammal Society annual  
meeting and to give paper on  
Hibernators in some of our Native Mammals

April  
May 7. Returned to Washington  
9 P.M.

1924

May 12 Left Washington  
4:50 PM for Harrisburg, arriving  
8 PM. Went to Strand Hotel  
near depo & called up Seth  
Gordon of the Conservation Dept.  
& arranged for trip to beaver  
house tomorrow morning.

May 13 With Sutton,  
Coulter and ——— drove,  
went to Mifflinburg by auto and  
out to beaver house near Sunborton.  
Photographed old beaver and his  
6 babies as much as we wanted  
to.

The young were born Saturday, May 8  
with eyes open and lower incisors out  
and upper almost out. They were bright  
and active and able to run around the  
first day. On May 11 four were

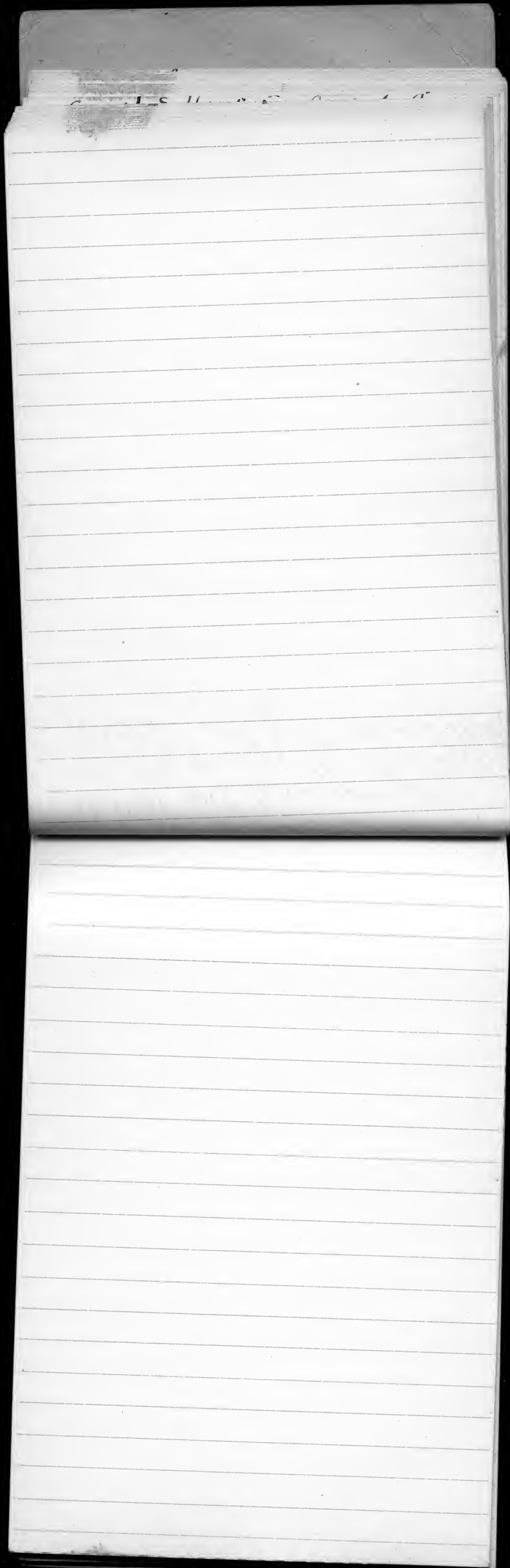
Weighted, one 14, two 16 and one 17  
ounces when 4 days old. They are  
not much larger today when 6 days  
old and photographed with their mother.  
They would run about on the ground and  
cry when hungry and follow their mother  
for food but as she has only 4  
nipples they have to take turns and  
always two have to wait. They  
generally nurse from underneath as  
the mother sits up or lies with  
room under her breast and throat  
for them. She is perfectly  
gentle and the young are as  
gentle and lovely as they can be.

After the young were put back in  
the house one came out of its nest  
box and explored around the floor  
and went into the water hole and  
swam twice across it & then  
went back.

1929  
May 30, Left Washington for  
Harrisburg 10:50 AM & arrived  
2:15 PM. Met Mr. Chittick and  
Stallbrook & drove out to Wiffburg  
& staid all night.

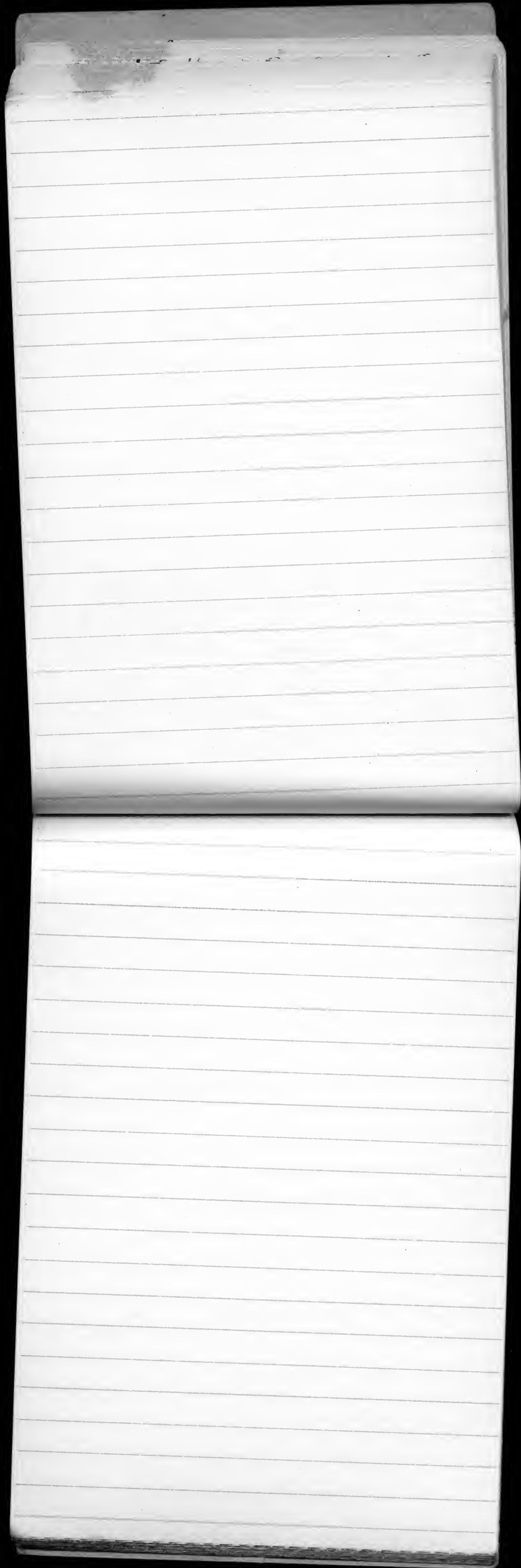
May 31 - Rained all night but  
chand off about 10 AM and  
we could photograph baby beaver  
and cubs bear all we wanted to  
Got nooks of young and old  
beaver in pond and out and  
of bear eating from a bottle.  
Went to Woodward cave,  
some 10 or 15 miles west of  
Jannett but found no bats.  
They have left recently.  
Caves is cold,  $44^{\circ}$  F. at  
present and the same all the  
year they say. Still many  
bats winter there.

Returned to Haverburg at  
10 PM but train all gone  
so staid over to morning of  
June 1, and got home 10 AM.



Bear with 4 very young cubs  
found under brush heap last week  
in Feb. 1926. Elk Co. Pa.  
Deep snow. Mother shot,  
cubs too young to be skinned in  
winter but kept for a while or two





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Hibernation

Hibernation

Acclimation

Diffusion + variation

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Slides

Send Miss Reader, Mifflintown, Pa.

Beavers

Bats

Poisons

Crows

Owls

